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Navajo Settle

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Wednesday, May 7, 2008

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Navajo Water Bill Passes Mark Up Before Senate Energy and Natural Resources

WASHINGTON, DC—A major Navajo Nation water rights bill passed a key milestone today by the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee.

“On behalf of our Navajo people living in Eastern Navajo Agency it is fantastic news that S 1171 passed out of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources today,” said President Shirley. “It is a big step forward for our people in getting running water to homes, schools, health facilities, senior centers, & communities. Prayerfully, S 1171 will pass in the full Senate and the House of Representatives, and President Bush will sign it into law.”

The Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act, S 1171. The legislation was reported out of the committee by unanimous voice vote and is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate. The was introduced in April 2007, and proposes to build the Navajo-Gallup Water supply project and settle certain Navajo water rights in New Mexico.

We want to express our heartfelt and deep appreciation to Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chairman of the Committee, ranking member Senator Pete Domenici, and the rest of the Committee for their understanding of the Navajo’s need for water and for their help.” President Shirley also praised Senator Domenici, and wished him a happy birthday today.

President Shirley testified last year before both House and Senate committees asking Congress to pass the bill that proposes to build a water infrastructure delivery system for Navajo homes.

Navajo Nation Washington Office Legislative Director Simon Boyce who oversees natural resources related issues for the Navajo Nation attended today’s Senate mark up.

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